

VZCZCXRO4240

RR RUEHAG RUEHAST RUEHBW RUEHDA RUEHDF RUEHFL RUEHIK RUEHKW RUEHLA
RUEHLN RUEHLZ RUEHPOD RUEHROV RUEHSR RUEHVK RUEHYG
DE RUEHPG #0298 1351504
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 141504Z MAY 08
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0319
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL 0097

UNCLAS PRAGUE 000298

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

SCA/A FOR LAUREN FRESE, EUR/ERA FOR CHIP DEAN, EUR/NCE FOR
ALEX TRATENSEK

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [ECON](#) [EFIN](#) [KDEM](#) [PGOV](#) [EZ](#) [EUN](#)

SUBJECT: CZECHS WILL PARTICIPATE IN JUNE CONFERENCE FOR
AFGHANISTAN

REF: STATE 44359

(SBU) Czech MFA Afghan desk officer Jan Husak stated that the Czechs will attend the June 12 Paris Support Conference for Afghanistan. He expects, based on the MFA Asia-Pacific Department recommendation, that Czech Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg or Deputy Foreign Minister Tomas Pojar will lead the Czech delegation. With respect to potential pledges of support at the conference, Husak indicated that his office prepared a paper for Foreign Minister Schwarzenberg on current and proposed future Czech assistance for Afghanistan.

(Note: Since the Czechs established Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Lowgar in March 2008, much of their financial assistance of 4.5M USD annually is targeted towards supporting the development and stability of this province. End Note.) According to Husak, we can anticipate that the GOCR will highlight the Czech substantial increase in personnel and financial assistance due to the establishment of the Lowgar PRT, as well as their commitment last month to deploy 100 military special forces personnel and their modest participation (five officers) in the EUPOL mission.

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